It has been conjectured that sugar was introduced to the European of the Dark Ages through the medium of the Radanite Jewish traders. The commodity continued to be a special object of interest on the part of Jews. Towards the close of the Middle Ages, it was exported by those of Crete as far distant as Austria, and treacle, the principal by-product of sugar, was (it appears) first made by them.

The industry entered upon a new phase after the maritime discoveries of the fifteenth century, when from a luxury of the wealthy it became one of the necessities of life. In this process, the part played by the Jews was considerable. In 1548, Portuguese Marranos transplanted the sugar-cane from the island of Madeira to South America, thus initiating what was for a long period one of the staple industries of the New World. In 1654, when the vast majority of them emigrated from Brazil rather than imperil the religious liberty laboriously achieved under Dutch rule, they transferred their activity to the West Indies, establishing the commercial prosperity of these islands on a new basis. It was Benjamin da Costa, one of the refugees, who set up the industry in Martinique, while others brought it to the Dutch (at that time English) colony of Surinam. They were very prominent in this branch of activity also in Barbados, Jamaica, and the other islands. It was a Marrano, too, who introduced the first sugar-cane mill into the West Indies. (Long after, in the nineteenth century, it was a

certain Aaron de Pass who introduced the sugar-cane to Natal.) Upon this industry, to so great extent of purely Jewish origin, the prosperity of the West Indies long rested, and the livelihood of a large number of the inhabitants still depends.

With regard to coffee, the most interesting sources of information at our disposal relate to England. The first recorded use dates from the Commonwealth period, and